

ANNUAL REPORT
on the
PUBLIC HEALTH
and
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
of the
Halstead Rural District

for the Year 1959

by

Dr. JOHN HARKNESS

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.OBST.R.C.O.G.

Medical Officer of Health

and

HAROLD NIELD

A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspector



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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. JOHN HARKNESS

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.OBST.R.C.O.G.

Also Medical Officer of Health, Halstead Urban District Council
and

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Essex County Council

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HAROLD NIELD

A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.

Incorporated Public Health Engineer

Also Public Health Inspector, Halstead Urban District Council

Deputy Public Health
Inspector

BRIAN A. J. TURNER
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health
Inspectors

JOHN H. BULMER
D.R.S.H.
(From 1.8.59)

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M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Clerk

PETER E. ADAMS
(From 20.4.59)

Clerk Typist

MISS MARY A. BECKWITH
(To 18.3.59)

MISS JOYCE B. SCRUBY
(From 16.3.59 to 31.7.59)

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(From 17.8.59)

General Assistant

MICHAEL CRISP

Part-time Rodent Operator

ALFRED LAUGHLIN

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District during 1959.

Vital Statistics

The estimated population is 16,860, an increase of 110 on 1958.

There were 234 live births which gives a birth rate of 16.1 per 1,000 of the population compared with 16.5 for England and Wales.

The death rate of 9.2 per 1,000 of the population compares with that of 11.6 for England and Wales.

There were four infant deaths recorded which gives an infant mortality rate of 17.1 per 1,000 live births.

Infectious Diseases

The biennial epidemic of measles occurred during 1959 and 248 cases were notified. There were no cases of Poliomyelitis during the year and the immunisation campaign continued.

As infectious diseases are controlled by Public Health measures, and by immunisation campaigns it is to be expected that our work will enter new fields and the investigation of other diseases will appear in these reports. 1959 was the occasion of two outbreaks of nephritis (kidney disease) in separate villages and an account of their investigation is contained in the Appendix to this report.

Environmental Hygiene

The details of this work are summarised in the tables which are presented later in this report. Mention should be made of the new Standard Grants which were introduced during the year. These are designed to help with the installation of basic amenities. It will be seen from the table produced by the Chief Public Health

Inspector on page 23, how necessary such help is in this District. Almost 50% of the houses in the district are lacking water borne sanitation, nearly 60% have no baths and almost 20% have no sinks. No accurate figures are available for two other amenities—a hot water supply and a food store, which rank for grant, but it would be surprising if more than half of the houses had them. Such amenities are in this modern age essential to the physical and mental health of the community and it is to be hoped that every opportunity will be taken to improve all the houses in this district to this standard which is, after all, a minimum standard.

The Council own between five and six hundred houses which are lacking in one or more of these amenities and are thus below this standard. It is essential, if real progress is to be made in modernising all the houses in the district, that the Council lead the way by rapidly bringing all their houses up to this standard.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. H. Haden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "Haden" at the end.

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my 13th Annual Report dealing with the Public Health Inspectors' work during the year 1959.

From the various tables and the brief notes given on pages 10 to 26 some measure may be gauged of the broad field and many facets of environmental public health work which your Public Health Inspectors are called upon to carry out. It will be obvious that it is impossible to concentrate unduly on any one particular aspect, but the broad results of these duties help to ensure that even without certain public amenities the level of public health is maintained and indeed improved year by year.

The year's work was affected by staff shortages and changes. The Department had been carrying out essential and pressing public health duties in the Halstead Urban District from May, 1958, and with effect from April, 1959, when a joint Public Health Department was formed, carried out all Public Health Inspectors' duties in the Halstead Urban and Rural Districts.

The most notable event of the year was commencement by the Council of constructional work on their first post war public sewerage and sewage disposal schemes, which were for the parishes of Castle Hedingham, Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham and Gosfield. Several extensions to the District Water Scheme were also carried out and properties continued to be connected to the water mains at a satisfactory rate. The completion of the comprehensive District Water Scheme in 1957, the provision of public sewerage in Bures Hamlet the same year, and the sewerage schemes in progress, greatly increased the desire for and facilitated the modernisation of dwelling-houses, food premises, etc., which appreciably increased the work of the Department.

Food Hygiene work once again had to be restricted on account of other more pressing duties, but it is really most essential that adequate time should be devoted to these important duties. 100% meat inspection was again carried out, but adequate poultry inspection at the four poultry dressing premises, where approximately 10,000 birds were killed weekly, was not possible. The amount of routine sampling of milk, ice cream and ice lollies was below average.

Housing, which lies at the very heart of all public health work, again took priority in the work of the Department, and in this sphere good progress was made. The Slum Clearance Programme, which involves the repair and reconditioning as well as the demolition of dwelling-houses, continued at a satisfactory rate of progress. The number of Discretionary Improvement Grants made showed a substantial increase, and the new Standard Grants introduced during the year made a good start. Concentration on the routine inspection, repair and reconditioning of dwelling-houses in the District is still of prime importance, as the normal deterioration of many existing dwelling-houses is, on account of their age and lack of modern amenities, quite appreciable. It is becoming more apparent that the concentrated effort in recent years is achieving substantial progress in raising the housing standards throughout the District.

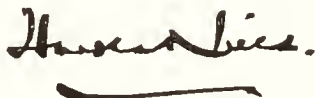
Drainage duties once again showed marked increase resulting from the recent availability of mains water supply and the consequent desire for modern sanitary fittings.

The importance of the protective and preventive work accomplished by the manifold day to day routine public health duties, too numerous for individual comment, should not be underestimated.

The interest and confidence of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee was again deeply appreciated. Once more I express my thanks to the staff for their willing and loyal assistance despite the many pressing demands on their services. I was also indebted to colleagues in other Departments for their courteous and helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	76,637
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	16,860
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1959) according to the					
Rate Books	...	...	...	...	6,093
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£152,029
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£563

Live Births:

					Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	220	112	108
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	14	7	7
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.9
Birth rate (corrected by comparability factor)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.1
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.5

Still Births:

					Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	4	1	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.8
Total births (live and still)	...	...	...	...	...	...	238

Infant and Maternal Mortality:

Deaths of infants under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Neonatal mortality rate (first four weeks)							
per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.5
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.0
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Deaths:

					Total	Male	Female
Deaths	...	...	...	...	189	94	95
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.2
Death rate (corrected by comparability factor)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.2
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.6

DEATH FROM ALL CAUSES, 1959

Disease	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	0	0
Tuberculosis (other)	0	0
Syphilitic disease	1	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping cough	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	0
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	6
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	0	2
Diabetes	2	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	20
Coronary disease, angina	14	8
Hypertension with heart disease	4	4
Other heart disease	14	20
Other circulatory disease	3	7
Influenza	2	1
Pneumonia	4	5
Bronchitis	5	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
Congenital malformation	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	8
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0
All other accidents	0	1
Suicide	1	0
Homicide and operations of war	0	0
Totals	94	95

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease				Total Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0	0
Dysentery	...	...	...	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	0	0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	3	0	0
Infectious Hepatitis	...	...	...	0	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	248	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	0	0	0
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0	0
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	10	0	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	...	5	5	0
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)	...	...	...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	4	0	0
Totals				272	5	0

Tuberculosis—New Cases Notified :

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0
1 and under 5 years	0	0	0	0
5 and under 10 years	0	0	0	0
10 and under 15 years	0	0	0	0
15 and under 20 years	0	0	0	0
20 and under 25 years	0	0	0	0
25 and under 35 years	0	1	0	0
35 and under 45 years	0	1	0	0
45 and under 55 years	1	0	0	0
55 and under 65 years	2	0	0	0
65 years and upwards	0	0	0	0
Totals	3	2	0	0

Transfers from other Districts : 1

Deaths from Tuberculosis : 0

1. FOOD

(a) Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by your Public Health Inspectors regarding the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Bakehouses	9	3
Egg Packing & Liquid Egg Preparation Premises	2	1
Fish Fryers	2	2
Game Dealers' Premises (Licensed)	1	0
General Provision Shops	77	39
Ice Cream Premises (Registered)	66	11
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	13	13
Meat Shops	14	195
Poultry Dressing Premises	4	4
Public Houses and Inns	65	25
Restaurants and Cafes	8	17
Slaughterhouses	3	140
Street Vendors	0	3
Miscellaneous	0	2
Totals ...	264	455

Food premises fully surveyed	1
Food poisoning investigations	0
Informal notices served	13
Food premises improved	8
Food vehicles improved	0

No Clean Food Guilds were inaugurated or existed during the year. Food traders were co-operative in securing the hygienic handling and storage of food. Success in this matter is very dependent upon public opinion.

(b) Food Premises Improvements

	Structural Works	Decorations and Cleaning	Lighting and Ventilation	Cold Water Supply	Hot Water Supply	Washing Facilities	Refuse Storage Facilities	Drainage	Sanitary Accommodation	Name and Address Displayed	Wash-hand Notices Displayed	Total
Bakehouses ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dairies ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Egg & Poultry Packing Premises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Shops and Fish Fryers ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Provision Shops ...	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
Ice Cream Premises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meat Products Premises ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meat Shops ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Houses and Inns ...	1	2	0	4	5	4	0	3	3	0	0	22
Restaurants and Cafes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slaughterhouses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Vehicles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	1	2	0	5	6	5	0	4	3	0	0	26

(c) Unsound Food

It was not necessary to make any seizures of Food. Vendors co-operated satisfactorily in reporting suspected food, which resulted in the following commodities being voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	...	...	...	...	139lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	...	191lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	17lbs.
Tinned Foods	...	...	...	...	101lbs.

Total 448lbs.

This condemned food was disposed of by burial in deep refuse pits. No special examinations of whole stocks or consignments of food were necessary during the year.

(d) Post-mortem Inspection of Animals

Three slaughterhouses licensed by the Council were used for meat supplies to a number of local butchers during the year and slaughtering was carried out on four days per week including Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings.

Details of post-mortem inspection of animals were:

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed (Estimated) ...	210	0	0	320	400	0
No. Inspected ...	178	0	0	268	284	0
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	0	0	0	0	1	0
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	10	0	0	6	19	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	5.62	0	0	2.24	7.04	0
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	0	0	0	1	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	0.56	0	0	0	0.35	0
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
(a) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Generalised and totally condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0	0

The figures in the above tables are in respect of animals inspected during or shortly after slaughter. Where such inspection was impossible on account of pressure of other work, carcases were examined in butchers' shops on the days after slaughter.

Licensed Slaughtermen 9.

(e) Milk and Dairies

Details of registrations, licences and inspections, and of samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination are given in the following tables:—

	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Registered Dairy Premises	6	14
Licensed Dealers of Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	7	3
Licensed Dealers of Pasteurised Milk	8	3
Licensed Dealers of Sterilised Milk	2	3
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	12	—
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	12	—
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licences to sell Sterilised Milk	6	—
Totals ...	53	23

Grade of Milk	Number of Samples	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ...	2	2	0
Tuberculin Tested	0	0	0
Pasteurised	3	3	0
Undesignated	0	0	0
Totals ...	5	5	0

(f) Ice Cream

There were no premises in the district registered for the manufacture of ice cream. Details of samples of ice cream and ice lollies taken for bacteriological examination are given in the following tables:—

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples	Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	7	Excellent	7
II	0	V. Satisfactory	0
III	0	Satisfactory	0
IV	0	Fair	0
		Unsatisfactory	0
	Total 7		Total 7

Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Lolly Samples
Excellent	0
V. Satisfactory	1
Satisfactory	3
Fair	0
Unsatisfactory	0
	Total 4

(g) **General**

No prosecutions regarding food or food premises were instituted during the year.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for Chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice-cream, etc., but details of such sampling were not notified to the Rural District Council.

2. WATER

The water supply of the area was satisfactory both in respect of quality and quantity. None of the existing supplies were treated by softening, but the District Water Scheme Supply was chlorinated.

As a routine procedure samples of the District Water Scheme supply were submitted for bacteriological laboratory examination monthly, and samples of all other mains water supplies quarterly. The District Water Scheme samples included some of the raw water direct from the borewell. Samples for chemical analysis were also taken.

During the year the following work was carried out by your Public Health Inspectors:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies	...	...	165
(b) Statutory Notices served re water supplies	...	...	0
(c) Informal Notices served re water supplies	...	...	16
(d) Premises connected to water mains	...	...	210
(e) Wells improved following informal action	...	...	5
(f) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Details of these are given in the following table	...	...	45

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains	23	21	2
Private Water Mains	15	14	1
Public Wells, etc.	2	2	0
Private Wells, etc.	5	4	1
Totals	45	41	4

The unsatisfactory samples from the water mains were investigated and the sources of contamination determined. Remedial action taken resulted in the supplies being made satisfactory.

(g) Samples of water examined for Chlorine content 6

There were no public swimming baths in the District. Part of Gosfield Lake continued in use as a public bathing pool.

SLUM CLEARANCE PROPOSALS

Unfit Houses—Position at 31st December, 1959

Parish	Total Houses in Slum Clearance Proposals 31st December, 1955	Unfit Houses		Unfit Houses Considered by Council and subject to				Unfit Houses Awaiting Consideration by Council	
		Made Fit	Demolished	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Dem. Orders	Action Pending	Category 4	Category 5
Alphamstone	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ashen	17	4	5	4	0	2	0	2	0
Belchamp Otten	7	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Belchamp St. Paul	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Belchamp Walter	17+3	2	10	0	0	6	2	0	0
Birdbrook	18	0	1	0	0	3	1	9	4
Borley	5	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Bulmer	21	4	4	2	0	2	0	5	4
Bures Hamlet	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Castle Hedingham	42+1	4	6	7	0	6	5	10	5
Colne Engaine	9	0	2	0	0	4	0	3	0
Earls Colne	29+4	4	7	1	1	11	4	4	1
Foxearth	11+1	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	0
Gestingthorpe	26+1	0	2	2	0	6	7	10	0
Gosfield	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	3
Great Henny	15	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	4
Great Maplestead	11+1	1	3	0	0	4	3	1	0
Great Yeldham	28+2	2	0	1	8	2	2	10	5
Halstead Rural	14+1	0	7	1	0	2	0	4	1
Helions Bumpstead	32	2	2	6	0	9	0	7	6
Lamarsh	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
Liston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Henny	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Maplestead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Yeldham	13+1	0	1	2	0	1	0	7	3
Middleton	8	0	2	1	0	3	0	1	1
Ovington	5+3	0	3	0	0	2	0	2	1
Pebmarsh	15+2	0	0	3	0	9	0	5	0
Pentlow	1+4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1
Ridgewell	24	2	7	2	0	7	0	4	2
Sible Hedingham	47+2	1	3	4	0	14	4	12	11
Stambourne	18	2	0	1	2	7	0	3	3
Steeple Bumpstead	22+1	2	8	4	0	0	1	5	3
Sturmer	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilbury-juxta-Clare	18	0	0	3	0	2	0	7	6
Toppesfield	34	2	9	0	3	4	3	11	2
Twinstead	10+3	0	4	4	0	0	3	1	1
White Colne	12+2	1	8	0	2	2	0	1	0
Wickham St. Paul	25+1	0	3	11	0	6	2	4	0
Totals:	587+33	40	113	62	20	127	37	153	68

Note—

Category 4—"Houses unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost, but appropriate for reconditioning."

Category 5—"Houses unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost, and appropriate for demolition."

SLUM CLEARANCE PROPOSALS

Progress during 1959

Parish	Houses Represented	Undertakings Accepted	Closing Orders Made	Demolition Orders Made	Houses Made Fit	Houses Demolished	Council Houses granted to displaced persons
Alphamstone	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ashen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belchamp Otten	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belchamp St. Paul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belchamp Walter	3	1	0	0	1	5	3
Birdbrook	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Borley	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
Bulmer	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Bures Hamlet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castle Hedingham	7	0	0	3	0	0	4
Colne Engaine	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Earls Colne	5	0	1	3	1	2	4
Foxearth	3	0	0	3	0	1	1
Gestingthorpe	6	0	0	4	0	0	1
Gosfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Henny	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Maplestead	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
Great Yeldham	4	0	0	2	1	0	0
Halstead Rural	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Helions Bumpstead	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lamarsh	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Liston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Henny	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Little Maplestead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Yeldham	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Middleton	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ovington	3	0	0	2	0	3	0
Pebmarsh	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Pentlow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ridgewell	0	1	0	6	0	0	2
Sible Hedingham	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Stambourne	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Steeple Bumpstead	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sturmer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilbury-juxta-Clare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Toppesfield	4	0	0	0	0	4	1
Twinstead	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
White Colne	2	0	2	2	1	4	1
Wickham St. Paul	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals :	55	5	3	32	10	25	19

(c) **Housing Improvements**

(1) Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by Public Health Inspectors	115
(2) Houses fully reconditioned to the "Twelve Points Standard" ...	40
(3) Houses repaired following Statutory Housing Act Notices ...	0
(4) Houses repaired following Statutory Public Health Act Notices ...	0
(5) Houses reconditioned following Statutory Housing Act Orders ...	10
(6) Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Housing Act	25

(f) **Housing Improvement Grants**

(1) Applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants	50
(2) Discretionary Improvement Grants approved (for £13,716) ...	50
(3) Schemes completed	34

Details regarding Discretionary Improvement Grants are given in the following tables:—

Year	No. of Applications		Amount of Improvement Grants		
	Received	Approved			
1949 to 1953	18	2	£400	0.	0.
1954	19	18	£4,093	10.	0.
1955	49	48	£11,113	0.	0.
1956	49	48	£13,322	0.	0.
1957	46	46	£12,414	0.	0.
1958	36	34	£9,560	0.	0.
1959	50	50	£13,716	0.	0.
Totals:	267	246	£64,618	10.	0.

Year	Houses Occupied by			Total
	Agricultural Workers	Other Tenants	Owners	
1949 to 1953	1	1	0	2
1954	9	6	3	18
1955	16	24	8	48
1956	21	11	16	48
1957	27	11	8	46
1958	20	6	8	34
1959	23	12	15	50
Totals:	117	71	58	246

(4) Applications for Standard Grants	15
(5) Standard Grants approved (for maximum of £1.855)	15
(6) Schemes completed	0
(7) Loans made by Council for Repairing or Improving Houses ...	1

Parish distribution of Discretionary Improvement Grants, Standard Grants and Financial Loans for repairing or improving houses, is given in the following table:—

Parish	Discretionary Improvement Grants	Standard Grants	Repair/ Improvement Loans	Total
Alphamstone	0	2	0	2
Ashen	7	1	0	8
Belchamp Otten	4	0	0	4
Belchamp St. Paul	7	1	0	8
Belchamp Walter	6	2	0	8
Birdbrook	6	0	0	6
Borley	1	0	0	1
Bulmer	1	0	0	1
Bures Hamlet	1	2	0	3
Castle Hedingham	8	0	0	8
Colne Engaine	17	0	6	23
Earls Colne	37	2	0	39
Foxearth	3	1	0	4
Gestingthorpe	2	0	0	2
Gosfield	19	1	0	20
Great Henny	3	0	0	3
Great Maplestead	4	0	0	4
Great Yeldham	9	1	0	10
Halstead Rural	37	0	0	37
Helions Bumpstead	8	0	0	8
Lamarsh	1	0	0	1
Liston	0	0	0	0
Little Henny	0	0	0	0
Little Maplestead	4	0	0	4
Little Yeldham	4	0	0	4
Middleton	0	0	0	0
Ovington	0	0	0	0
Pebmarsh	4	0	0	4
Pentlow	1	0	0	1
Ridgewell	1	0	0	1
Sible Hedingham	20	1	1	22
Stambourne	2	0	0	2
Steeple Bumpstead	8	0	0	8
Sturmer	2	1	0	3
Tilbury-juxta-Clare	3	0	0	3
Tonpesfield	5	0	0	5
Twinstead	2	0	1	3
White Colne	8	0	0	8
Wickham St. Paul	1	0	0	1
Totals:	246	15	8	269

(g) Rent Act

(1) Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	5
(2) Decisions to issue Certificates	5
(3) Undertakings given by Landlords	0
(4) Certificates of Disrepair issued	4
(5) Applications for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair ...	1
(6) Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	0
(7) Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	1

(h) Housing Overcrowding

(1) Overcrowded houses existing December, 1958	5
(2) Overcrowded houses found during 1959	0
(3) Overcrowded houses relieved during 1959	2
(4) Overcrowded houses existing December, 1959 (Including 1 Council house)	3

(i) Moveable Dwellings

(1) Licensed Camping Grounds (for 58 trailer caravans)	1
(2) Licensed Moveable Dwellings	31
(3) Informal Notices served re Moveable Dwellings	1

Every caravan on the licensed camping ground was provided with piped mains water supply and main drainage to a camp disposal plant.

Most of the licensed moveable dwellings were used as permanent residences. It should be appreciated that however modern and well designed touring caravans may be, they are unsatisfactory substitutes for proper houses

4. WORKPLACES

(a) Inspections and Notices

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	8	1	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	46	14	2	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	0	0	0	0
Total ...	54	15	2	0

Certificates of Means of Escape in case of fire granted	1
Certificates of Means of Escape in case of fire in operation	4

(b) Defects found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	0	1	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient ...	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	2	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	1	1	0	1	0
Totals ...	2	4	0	1	0

(c) Out-Workers

Nature of Outwork	Section 110				Section 111		Inspections
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
Wearing apparel—Making, etc. ...	17	0	0	0	0	0	17

(d) Miscellaneous

Premises				No. in district	Inspections
Places of Entertainment ...	...	...	...	39	2
Shops ...	...	...	...	126	226
Workplaces ...	...	...	...	10	1
Schools ...	...	...	...	21	0

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops) ... 0

Certificates of Exemption (shops) in operation ... 0

5. WASTE MATTERS

(a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor.

Of the 39 Parishes in the District eight (Bures Hamlet, Castle Hedingham, Colne Engaine, Earls Colne, Foxearth, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and part of White Colne) had public sewers, and three public sewage disposal works served Earls Colne, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and part of White Colne.

Constructional work commenced on the joint sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Castle Hedingham, Great Yeldham and Sible Hedingham, and also that for Gosfield. Schemes have been prepared for Birdbrook (Baythorne End), Halstead Rural (Greenstead Green), Pebmarsh and Toppesfield, and are in process of being prepared for Colne Engaine and Ridgewell. The following Parishes have been given priority regarding their need for sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in the near future: Belchamp St. Paul, Foxearth and Sturmer. Schemes are also proposed for Ashen, Birdbrook, Great Maplestead, Gestingthorpe and Helions Bumpstead, with extensions at Earls Colne, White Colne and Steeple Bumpstead.

17 inspections were made by your Public Health Inspectors of public sewers and sewer ditches following complaints, and certain unsatisfactory conditions such as blockages, need of cleansing, etc., were remedied.

(b) Drainage.

Drainage was part of the duties of your Public Health Inspector.

There was no scheme for emptying cesspools or sewage tanks in the District (except at Council houses), and householders made their own arrangements with private contractors.

Details of drainage to properties in the District are:—

Total Properties	Properties drained to:			Properties without drainage
	Sewers or Highway Drains	Sewage tanks or Cesspools	Ditches etc.	
6389	2001	2126	1195	1067
(100%)	(31.3%)	(33.3%)	(18.7%)	(16.7%)

(i) Drainage Duties

1. Plans examined regarding drainage proposals	215
2. Drainage investigations and advisory visits	181
3. Drainage Inspections	757
4. Inspection of ditches, etc.	27
5. Drainage tests	237
6. Informal notices served	35
7. Statutory notices served	0

(ii) Drainage Improvements

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors, the following improvements were effected:—

1. Premises drained to sewers	54
2. Premises drained to septic tanks	69
3. Drains reconstructed	50
4. Drains cleansed	4
5. Ditches cleansed	2

(c) Sanitary Fittings

There is a need in the District for the conversion of earth closets into water closets, and for the provision of sinks and baths to dwellings.

Details of Sanitary fittings of properties in the District are:—

Total Properties	Properties with:					
	Sanitary Conveniences				Sinks	Baths
	W.Cs.	E.Cs.	Privies	None		
6389	3259	3068	4	58	5279	2669
100 %)	(51.01 %)	(48.02 %)	(0.06 %)	(0.91 %)	(82.6 %)	(41.8 %)

44 inspections were made regarding sanitary conveniences and as a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors the following improvements were effected:—

1. Privy conversions	...	...	...	...	0
2. Sanitary conveniences reconstructed	...	...	...	...	0
3. New sanitary conveniences provided	...	...	...	...	164
4. Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	95
5. Baths provided	...	...	...	...	156
6. Wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	156

(d) Refuse Storage and Disposal

Public cleansing was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor. The Council possessed 3 refuse collecting vehicles which removed house refuse at fortnightly intervals. Refuse was disposed of on refuse dumps at Birdbrook, Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham and White Colne, and by making up land at the request of farmers, etc., in various parts of the district.

6 inspections of refuse tips, and 24 inspections regarding refuse accumulations were made. Six informal notices were served regarding refuse accumulations.

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors 6 accumulations of refuse were removed.

6. PESTS

(a) Insect Pests

The District continued to be comparatively free from insect pest infestation. No premises were found with bed bug infestations. A total of 29 inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors in connection with insect pests, and 30 premises were disinfested in respect of ants, carpet beetles, fleas, flies, wasps, etc. Two informal notices were served.

(b) Rodent Control

There was also no unduly high incidence of rat and mouse infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers and refuse dumps were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements.

The Council continued the rat and mouse destruction contract services on Agricultural Properties, previously operated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Towards the end of the year the Halstead and District Rabbit Clearance Society was formed, and 37 contracts with an annual value of £408 16s. 8d. were handed over to the Society with effect from 1st January, 1960.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors and Rodent Operator during the year were:—

		Type of Property				
		Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
		1 Local Authority	2 Dwelling Houses Inc. Council Houses	3 All other (Inc. Business Premises)	4 Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
I.	Number of properties in Local Authority's District ...	22	5478	591	6091	450
II.	Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
	(a) Notification	0	33	12	45	2
	(b) Survey under the Act ...	22	186	8	209	116
	(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	0	184	92	276	0
III.	Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections ...	27	457	147	631	965
IV.	Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by					
	(a) Rats Major	3	0	1	4	118
	Minor	3	27	14	44	
	(b) Mice Major	0	0	0	0	0
	Minor	0	6	0	6	0
V.	Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	6	20	13	39	116
VI.	Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments ...	15	23	17	55	391
VII.	Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act					
	(a) Treatment	0	0	0	0	1
	(b) Structural work	0	0	0	0	0
VIII.	Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act ...	0	0	0	0	0
IX.	Legal proceedings ...	0	0	0	0	0
X.	Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ...	0	1	0	0	0

7. MISCELLANEOUS

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by your Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

(a) Plans deposited under Building Byelaws examined	...	...	215
(b) Smoke and dust nuisance investigations	...	...	4
(c) Keeping of animals and poultry nuisance investigations	...	...	8
(d) Notifiable disease investigations (River, ditch, sewer and drain swabs, re case of paratyphoid fever)	...	...	48
(e) Premises disinfected following notifiable diseases	...	...	1
(f) Visits regarding miscellaneous public health matters	...	...	5
(g) Bathing pool water samples taken	...	...	0
(h) Pet Shop licences granted	...	...	0
(i) Rag Flock Act inspections	...	...	0
(j) Informal Notices served regarding miscellaneous matters	...	...	1

The following special report was submitted to the Council by the Public Health Inspector during the year:—

1. Slum Clearance and Rehousing.

APPENDIX

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"EPIDEMIC" NEPHRITIS IN NORTH ESSEX

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In March, 1959, the head teacher of a village primary school informed me that 3 of her pupils, 2 of whom were brothers, had recently developed acute nephritis. The parents of all the children were considerably alarmed. The epidemic nature of acute nephritis, due to a type 12 *Streptococcus pyogenes*, has been pointed out (George et al. 1958, Pleydell and Hall-Turner 1958), and it was decided to investigate this outbreak.

INVESTIGATION

Nose and throat swabs were obtained from all the children, the teachers, and the domestic staff. Bottles for urine specimens were distributed together with an explanatory letter to the parents, and the specimens were collected on the following day. *Strep. pyogenes* was isolated from 11 children, and the only 4 which were typed were found to be type 12. 1 case of acute nephritis was discovered, and the urine of 8 other children was found to contain red blood-cells. None of the adults were carriers of *Strep. pyogenes* and none showed any urinary abnormalities. All the children who were carriers were excluded from school and given a seven-day course of oral penicillin. Subsequent swabs showed them to be free from infection. None of the patients with acute nephritis had any history of sore throats.

As a check on the spread of infection outside the school, all the older children from the village who attended the secondary school (school I) four miles away were examined, and 2 of them were found to be carrying *Strep. pyogenes* type 12. Nose and throat swabs were also taken from children attending another secondary school (school II) seven miles away, and none of the children were found to be carrying *Strep. pyogenes*.

No further cases of nephritis were notified in the district until six months later when I was reported from a boy's private school eight miles from the school originally affected. He was a day-boy and had attended school for only one day after the summer holiday when he developed acute nephritis. Fourteen days previously he had had an acute pharyngitis which had been treated with a course of sulphonamides. Nose and throat swabs were taken from all the boys in his class and his contacts at home. 5 of the boys in his class were found to be carrying *Strep. pyogenes*, of which there were 2 type 12, 2 type 22, and 1 type 4. His mother and a friend of his were found to be carrying *Strep. pyogenes* type 12. All the carriers were given a week's course of oral penicillin.

Six weeks later 1 of the 2 boys who had been carriers of a type 12 *Strep. pyogenes* developed acute nephritis. After his first course of penicillin he had remained well for three weeks, after which he had developed an acute pharyngitis which was treated with oral penicillin. Three weeks later acute nephritis developed. All the boys in the school, the staff, and the children of the staff who were in contact with the boys had nose and throat swabs taken and the urine investigated. 19 were found to be carrying *Strep. pyogenes*, which in 18 was type 12. Of these 18, 16 were in close contact as they were boarders, and only 1 day-boy was found to be a carrier. The urines of 4 boys contained red blood-cells, and the urines of 4 others contained casts. The urines of 3 adults contained red blood-cells. All the carriers were given a week's course of oral penicillin.

Data on the outbreaks are summarised in the accompanying table. The outbreaks in the two schools showed one important difference. In the first school no history of a preliminary sore throat was elicited, while in the second school there was a sharp outbreak of sore throats among the boarders in the latter part of November and the early part of December. This difference may have been due to the closer contact in a boarding-school and a consequent increase in the load of infection which produced clinical symptoms. 1 boy developed acute nephritis despite two separate courses of oral penicillin, to which the organism was reported to be sensitive. This suggests an undue sensitivity to the organism rather than insufficient treatment. The exclusion of carriers and the treatment with penicillin proved to be effective in preventing the spread of infection in the first school, but in the second school it was not effective. This may have been due to the failure to investigate the whole school on the first occasion, with the consequent continued presence of a carrier, or it may have been due to the introduction of the causal organism at a later date.

SUMMARY

277 people were investigated (23 of them twice) after detection of 6 cases of nephritis. 28 of the contacts were found to be carrying *Streptococcus pyogenes* type 12. 20 children were found to have symptomless urinary abnormalities, which suggests that the spread of infection was or had been more widespread than the carrier-rate indicated. Oral administration of penicillin to carriers in these semi-closed communities apparently helped to reduce the spread of infection.

I wish to thank all the general practitioners for their assistance in investigating this outbreak, and Dr. J. D. Kershaw for reading the draft of this paper. I should like to acknowledge the assistance I received from the article by George et al. (1958) in formulating the method of investigation.

REFERENCES

- George, J. T. A., McDonald, J. C., Payne, D. J. H., Slade, D. A. (1958) Brit. med. J. ii, 1381.
Pleydell, M. J., Hall-Turner, W. J. A. (1958) *ibid.* p. 1382.

DATA ON OUTBREAKS OF ACUTE NEPHRITIS

Time	School	No. investigated	Carrying Strep. pyogenes	Carrying Strep. pyogenes type 12	With acute nephritis	Urine contained :	
						Red blood-cells	Casts
February, 1959	Village school	84	11	4 (only 4 typed)	4	8	0
	Secondary school I	37	2	2	..	Not examined	Not examined
	Secondary school II.	31	0	0	..	Not examined	Not examined
October, 1959	Boys' school	23	5	2	1	..	..
	Home contacts	4	2	2	0	..	..
December, 1959	Boys' school:						
	Boarders	71	16	15	1	4	3
	Day-boys	27	1	1	..	0	1
	Contacts:						
	Other children	4	2	2	..	0	1
	Adults	19	0	0	..	3	0
	Totals	300	39	28	6	15	5

